

will be effective for the entirety of the applicable rate period that begins while the rate is in effect. Thus, an inflation rate may affect interest accruals from 3 to 13 months from the date that the CPI-U is measured.

Example 1. The inflation rate determined from the CPI-U for the six-month period from October, 2003, through March, 2004, will be included in the composite rate announced in May, 2004. For a bond purchased in May 1999, this rate would go into effect immediately, since a new semiannual rate period for this bond will begin in May, 2004. Series I bonds issued in May begin new semiannual rate periods in the months of May and November. In this example, the inflation rate will have its earliest impact in June 2004, when interest from May accrues, three months after the end of the six-month CPI-U period that ends in March, 2004.

Example 2. The May 1, 2004, rate will apply similarly to a bond purchased in October 1999. Series I bonds issued in October begin new semiannual rate periods in the months of April and October. Thus, for this bond, the May 1, 2004, composite rate (which includes the inflation rate) will not go into effect until a new semiannual rate period begins on October 1, 2004. This rate, therefore, will determine the inflation-indexed portion of each interest accrual from November, 2004, through April, 2005. In this example, the inflation rate will have its latest impact in April 2005, 13 months following the six-month CPI-U period that ended March 31, 2004.

APPENDIX D TO PART 359—TAX CONSIDERATIONS

1. *What are some general tax considerations?*

General. Interest is subject to all taxes imposed under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The bonds are also subject to Federal and State estate, inheritance, gift, or other excise taxes. The bonds are exempt from all other taxation by any State or local taxing authority.

2. *What reporting methods are available for savings bonds?*

(a) *Reporting methods.* You may use either of the following two methods for reporting the increase in the redemption value of the bond for Federal income tax purposes:

(1) *Cash basis method.* You may defer reporting the increase to the year of final maturity, redemption, or other disposition, whichever is earliest; or

(2) *Accrual basis method.* You may elect to report the increase each year, in which case the election applies to all Series I bonds that you then own, those subsequently acquired, and to any other obligations purchased on a discount basis, such as savings bonds of Series E or EE.

(b) *Changing methods.* If you use the cash basis method, you may change to the accrual

basis method without obtaining permission from the Internal Revenue Service. However, once you elect to use the accrual basis method in paragraph (a)(2), you may change the method of reporting the increase only by following the specific procedures prescribed by the Internal Revenue Service for making an automatic method change. For further information, you may contact the Internal Revenue Service director for your area, or the Internal Revenue Service, Washington, DC 20224.

3. *What transactions have potential tax consequences?*

The following types of transactions, among others, may have potential tax consequences:

(a) A reissue that affects the rights of any of the persons named on a definitive Series I savings bonds may have tax consequences for the owner.

(b) The transfer of a book-entry Series I savings bonds from one owner to another may have tax consequences for the purchaser.

(c) The redemption of a book-entry Series I savings bonds by the secondary owner may have tax consequences for the primary owner.

(d) The purchase of a Series I savings bonds as a gift may have gift tax consequences for the purchaser.

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301; 31 U.S.C. 3105 and 3125.

SOURCE: 63 FR 38049, July 14, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Information

§ 360.0 Applicability

The regulations in this part govern transactions in definitive United States Savings Bonds of Series I bearing issue dates of September 1, 1998, or later.

[67 FR 64285, Oct. 17, 2002]

§ 360.1 Official agencies.

(a) The Bureau of the Public Debt of the Department of the Treasury is responsible for administering the Savings Bond Program. Authority to process transactions has been delegated to Federal Reserve Banks and Branches listed in paragraph (b) of this section, as fiscal agents of the United States. The Federal Reserve Banks and Branches, and their authority to process transactions, as fiscal agents of the United States, are subject to change, as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, or his or her designee.

(b) Communications concerning transactions and requests for forms should be addressed to:

(1) A Federal Reserve Bank or Branch in the list below; or, the Bureau of the